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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/869,701	07/03/2001	Naoki Ayai	017700-0149	8643
22428	7590	10/20/2003		
FOLEY AND LARDNER SUITE 500 3000 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20007			EXAMINER PIZIALI, ANDREW T	
			ART UNIT 1775	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/869,701

Applicant(s)

AYAI ET AL.

Examiner

Andrew T Piziali

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14 and 16-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 20 and 22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14, 16-19 and 23-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: In line 8 it appears "at lease" is suppose to read "at least". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

3. Claims 14, 16-17, 23 and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 5,051,397 to Sato et al. (hereinafter referred to as Sato '397).

Regarding claims 14, 16-17, 23 and 25-26, Sato '397 discloses an oxide superconducting wire comprising a first wire, a second wire, and a junction formed by superposing the end portions of the wires with each other (see entire document including Figure 5 and column 3, lines 42-47). Sato '397 discloses a brazing filler metal (2) interposed between the superposed end portions of the first and second superconducting wires (Figure 5 and column 2, lines 49-54). Sato '397 also discloses that the bismuth oxide superconductor filaments may be coated with silver (5) (Figure 5 and column 5, lines 56-61).

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Regarding claims 16-17, Sato '397 discloses that the superconducting wires are tape-like wires having rectangular cross sections that are bonded by superposing the wide surfaces of the tape-like surfaces (Figures 1 and 5, column 5, lines 13-24 and column 6, lines 25-30).

Regarding claim 23, Sato '397 discloses that the junction is at least partially coated with a metal (6) (Figure 5).

Regarding claim 25, Sato '397 discloses that the superconducting wires may contain a bismuth oxide superconductor (column 3, lines 12-15).

4. Claims 14, 16-19 and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 5,358,929 to Fujikami et al. (hereinafter referred to as Fujikami).

Regarding claims 14, 16-19 and 25-26, Fujikami discloses an oxide superconducting wire comprising a first wire, a second wire, and a junction formed by superposing the end portions of the wires with each other (see entire document including Figures 7, 10A, 10B, 16, 21, 25 and column 2, lines 6-16). Fujikami discloses a brazing filler metal interposed between the superposed end portions of the first and second superconducting wires (column 2, lines 6-16). Fujikami also discloses that bismuth oxide superconductor filaments may be coated with silver (column 2, lines 42-63 and column 4, lines 16-29).

Regarding claims 16-17, Fujikami discloses that the superconducting wires are tape-like wires having rectangular cross sections that are bonded by superposing the wide surfaces of the tape-like surfaces (Figures 7, 10A, 10B, 16, 21, 25).

Regarding claims 18, Fujikami discloses that at least one of the end portions may be worked so that the width of at least one of the end portions is reduced toward the end (Figure 25).

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Regarding claim 19, Fujikami discloses that the junction may include an end portion having a V shape in plane (Figures 25).

Regarding claim 25, Fujikami discloses that the superconducting wires may contain a bismuth oxide superconductor (column 4, lines 16-29).

5. Claims 14, 16-19 and 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by USPN 5,949,131 to Sato et al. (hereinafter referred to as Sato '131).

Regarding claims 14, 16-19 and 23-26, Sato '131 discloses an oxide superconducting wire comprising a first wire, a second wire, and a junction formed by superposing the end portions of the wires with each other (see entire document including Figures 24-27, column 12, lines 42-63 and column 13, lines 18-43). Sato '131 discloses a brazing filler metal interposed between the superposed end portions of the first and second superconducting wires (paragraph bridging columns 4 and 5, and column 8, lines 1-13). Sato '131 also discloses that bismuth oxide superconductor filaments may be coated with silver (paragraph bridging columns 1 and 2).

Regarding claims 16-17, Sato '131 discloses that the superconducting wires are tape-like wires having rectangular cross sections that are bonded by superposing the wide surfaces of the tape-like surfaces (Figures 1-36 and paragraph bridging columns 1 and 2).

Regarding claims 18, Sato '131 discloses a junction so worked that the widths of the wires are reduced towards the ends (Figures 24-27).

Regarding claim 19, Sato '131 discloses that the junction includes an end portion having a V shape in plane (Figures 26-27 and column 13, lines 28-29).

Regarding claim 23, Sato '131 discloses that the junction may be at least partially coated with a metal (Figure 17, column 11, lines 12-17, and Figure 20, column 11, lines 43-54).

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Regarding claim 24, Sato '131 discloses that the junction is at least partially inserted into a material having an annular shape (Figure 20, column 11, lines 43-54).

Regarding claim 25, Sato '131 discloses that the superconducting wires may contain a bismuth oxide superconductor (column 2, lines 5-9).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 21 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior art fails to teach or suggest the wire of claim 17 wherein at least one of the end portions is so worked that the thickness of the at least one end portions is reduced toward the distal end thereof.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 7/28/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant asserts that the prior art does not teach the currently claimed oxide superconducting wire, particularly, wherein the first edge surface is displaced from the second edge surface longitudinally along the direction of the first and second superconducting wires. The examiner respectfully disagrees. In the above rejection the examiner has cited specific Figures illustrating the newly added limitation.

The applicant asserts that the prior art does not teach the currently claimed oxide superconducting wire, particularly, wherein the first outer surface overlaps the second outer surface in a region of the first and second end portions. The examiner respectfully disagrees. In

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the above rejection the examiner has cited specific Figures illustrating the newly added limitation. The examiner asserts that as currently claimed the regions wherein the filaments are in direct contact with their respective sheaths are not necessarily the same regions wherein the first and second outer surfaces are connected.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew T Piziali whose telephone number is (703) 306-0145. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah Jones can be reached on (703) 308-3822. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-5665.


atp
October 6, 2003

Andrew T Piziali
Examiner
Art Unit 1775


DEBORAH JONES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER